

## **Tim's Talking Points - Blades Groundwater Site**

- Hello, everyone, we greatly appreciate you coming out tonight during this busy holiday season. As previously mentioned, I'm Tim Ratsep, the Director of DNREC's Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances. As the director, it is my job to oversee the investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites in Delaware. Before EPA begins their presentation, I would like to take just a few minutes to talk to you about where we are in this process with Blades.
- In January 2018, elevated per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were detected in groundwater samples collected from the three Blades municipal supply wells.
- Thanks to our outstanding state and federal partners - EPA, Division of Public Health, the National Guard and the Town of Blades - we were quickly able to notify public officials and residents regarding the contamination in the drinking water, secure safe drinking water supplies for Blades, and identify private wells that were impacted.
- DNREC was also able to purchase a carbon treatment filtration system to treat the Blades municipal wells, as well as individual carbon treatment and replacement filters to remove PFAS from the eight (8) impacted private wells and meet applicable standards. EPA plans to assume these responsibilities once the site is listed to the NPL.
- The public drinking water provided by the Town of Blades has been treated since the spring of 2018, and continues to be treated to remove the PFAS contamination. The finished drinking water meets the applicable standards.
- DNREC recently tested the drinking water in November 2019 and September 2019. The results show the PFAS concentrations remain well below the EPA's lifetime health advisory level (HAL) of 70 parts per trillion.

- DNREC plans to continue sampling the Town of Blades public water until the site is listed to the NPL and EPA takes over maintenance of the treatment program.
- Due to the complex nature of the PFAS chemicals and the extent of the contamination, DNREC requested additional assistance from the EPA with the management and remediation of the site.
- The proposal to list the site to the National Priorities List will allow EPA to use Superfund authority and resources to help further investigate and remediate the PFAS contamination and protect human health and the environment in Blades.
- DNREC will continue to work closely with our terrific state and federal partners and Blades officials throughout the NPL listing process. Once the site is listed to the NPL, EPA will take over the maintenance of the carbon treatment program for the impacted private and municipal wells.
- So without further delay, please allow me introduce the next speaker, Connor O'Loughlin, EPA's Site Assessment Manager. Connor has worked hard to investigate the site and is ready to share his results with you and discuss the proposed NPL listing.